



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT OF AREA MAN FOR TRANSPORTING YOUNG GIRLS ACROSS STATE LINES

On the heels of Operation Community Watch, U.S. Attorney announces filing of formal charges

PRESS RELEASE

MUNCIE – U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett announced this morning the indictment of New Castle resident Marvin Geraci, age 67, on charges that he transported two local girls across state lines with the intent to sexually exploit them. This represents more results in Hogsett's Project Safe Childhood initiative, which aims to reduce the abuse of Hoosier children through innovative investigative techniques and aggressive prosecution.

According to a criminal complaint filed in October 2012, Geraci allegedly sexually molested two minor females, currently aged 12 and 13 years-old, on multiple occasions over the last two years. The complaint specifically alleges that he took the two girls on what were described as "vacations" to New Orleans and Daytona Beach, and on these trips engaged in the criminal behavior.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Brant Cook, who is prosecuting the case for the government, the filing of two counts of "transporting minors in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in sexual activity" carries with it a maximum penalty of life in prison if Geraci is found guilty. He also could face significant fines, supervised release, and lifetime registration as a sexual predator.

This indictment comes as Hogsett has announced a comprehensive crackdown on child exploitation in Indiana. Just last week, he launched "Operation Community Watch," which will allow prosecutors and investigators to use cutting-edge techniques to identify and charge people in Hoosier communities who are engaged in the receipt and trafficking of child pornography materials.

Specifically, Hogsett discussed a project in conjunction with Purdue University in which investigators have developed new and more effective on-site forensic examination software that allows law enforcement to quickly scan thousands of images and videos when a warrant is served.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Hogsett pointed out that in the last Project Safe Childhood reporting year, the Office prosecuted 52 defendants, an increase of 37% over the prior year, and 49 defendants were convicted and sentenced. These are all-time records for the Office. The Office conviction rate for PSC cases was 100%, a level it has been at since 1991.

The greatest measure of the PSC program's impact, however, is the identification and rescue of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Over the last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office successfully identified more than 120 child victims in Indiana, numerous places in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and other countries around the world.

Led nationally by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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